

What is claimed is:

1. A continuous method for producing polarizing films that includes a step of monoaxially stretching a polyvinyl alcohol film having a width of at least 2 m in an aqueous boric acid solution, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film is stretched on the condition that it satisfies the following formulae (1) and (2):

$$A \geq 5 \text{ (m)} \quad (1)$$

$$A/B \geq 0.5 \text{ (min)} \quad (2)$$

wherein A indicates the stretching distance (m); and B indicates the stretched film speed (m/min).

2. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the stretching distance (A) to the stretched film width (C), (A/C) is at least 5.

3. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the stretching distance (A) to the stretched film speed (B), (A/B) is at least 1.0 (minute).

4. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the aqueous boric acid solution falls between 30 and 90°C.

5. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the draw ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol film is at least 4 times.

6. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 5, wherein the draw ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol film

is at least 5 times.

7. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polarizing films are produced through a step of swelling a polyvinyl alcohol film, a step of dyeing it, a step of monoaxially stretching it in an aqueous boric acid solution, a step of fixing it, and a step of drying it.

8. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 95 mol%.

9. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 98 mol%.

10. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 99 mol%.

11. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 99.5 mol%.

12. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 1000.

13. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 1500.

14. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed

in claim 13, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 2000.

15. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film has a thickness of from 10 to 100 μm .

16. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film contains a polyhydric alcohol serving as a plasticizer.

17. The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film contains an anionic or nonionic surfactant.